

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) The structure according to claim 5, wherein,

said chromium-oxide passivation film has pin holes in
said chromium coat, and

said pin holes are sealed ~~are filled by said heat treatment in an oxidizing atmosphere such that the chromium oxide passivation does not include pin holes.~~

3-4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) A structure, comprising:

a metallic material having a surface, the metallic surface having a surface roughness (Ra) being not more than 1.5 μ m; and

a chromium-oxide passivation film formed by ~~heat treatment in an oxidizing atmosphere of~~ heating a chromium film coated directly onto the metallic material surface in an oxidizing atmosphere.

6. (currently amended) An article, comprising:

a metallic body having a surface, the metallic body surface having a surface roughness (Ra) being not more than 1.5 μ m; and

a chromium-oxide passivation film formed by ~~heat treatment in an oxidizing atmosphere of~~ heating a chromium film coated directly onto the metallic material surface in an oxidizing atmosphere.

7-8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) A structure, comprising:

a metallic body having a surface, the metallic body surface having a surface roughness (Ra) being not more than 1.5 μ m; and

a chromium-oxide passivation film formed by ~~heat treatment in an oxidizing atmosphere of~~ heating a chromium film coated directly onto the metallic material surface in an oxidizing atmosphere, wherein,

the metallic body surface defines a continuous boundary between the metallic body and the chromium-oxide deposit.

10-12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A structure, comprising:

a metallic material having a surface, the metallic surface having a surface roughness (Ra) being not more than 1.5 μ m; and

a chromium-oxide passivation film formed by ~~heat~~

~~treatment in an oxidizing atmosphere of~~ heating a chromium film coated directly onto the metallic material surface in an oxidizing atmosphere, wherein,

at least an outermost surface of the chromium-oxide passivation film consisting of substantially 100% chromium-oxide.

14. (new) The structure according to claim 5, wherein said chromium-oxide passivation film does not substantially include an element of said metallic material.

15. (new) The structure according to claim 14, wherein said metallic material is stainless steel.

16. (new) The structure according to claim 14, wherein said element is Fe or Ni.

17. (new) The structure according to claim 5, wherein said chromium-oxide passivation film is free from pinholes.

18. (new) The structure according to claim 5, wherein said chromium-oxide passivation film is free from cracks.